RECEOVED

MAY 0 7 2001

ECH CENTER 1600/2900

PATENT Docket No. 6137.P US

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Charles W. FORD et al.

Group Art Unit:

1653

Serial No.:

09/600,392

Examiner:

Unassigned

Filed:

For:

14 July 2000

Int'l Filing Date:

12 January 1999

AN AUTOREGULATORY SYSTEM FOR VALIDATING MICROBIAL GENES AS

POSSIBLE ANTIMICROBIAL TARGETS USING A TETRACYCLINE-

CONTROLLABLE ELEMENT

#6/a 3.ta 5-14-01

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to taking up the above-identified patent application for examination, please enter the following amendments.

## **In The Specification**

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 4-7, with the following rewritten paragraph. Per 37 C.F.R §1.121, this paragraph is also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate the changes made.

Methods for identifying which microbial genes are targets for inhibition by antibiotics. Specifically a tetracycline-regulated system which provides autoregulatory, inducible gene expression in recombinant microbes, such as bacteria, and in animals infected with the microbes is described.

 $\mathbb{Q}_{r}$